



Rhode Island Housing
working together to bring you home

February 18, 2009

This Notice of Public Disclosure of a potential conflict of interest is made pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's ("HUD") regulations governing the Community Development Block Grant Program, ("CDBG Program"), 24 C.F.R. Section 570.611.

Rhode Island Housing is co-applicant, along with the State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development ("OHCD"), for funding under HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program ("NSP") authorized by Title III of Division B of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, 2008 (the "Act"). Under the Act, the CDBG regulations apply to NSP activities.

Under applicable regulations, employees of a recipient who exercise decision making authority, or are in a position to exercise such authority, or their family members, generally may not benefit or receive a financial interest from any NSP Program-assisted activity. 24 C.F.R. Section 570.611(b). As a co-applicant, Rhode Island Housing will be involved in the distribution of NSP funds in Rhode Island. Rhode Island Housing's Executive Director, Richard Godfrey, is married to the Executive Director of a non-profit housing development corporation known as Stop Wasting Abandoned Property ("SWAP"). SWAP is a likely applicant for funding under the NSP Program.

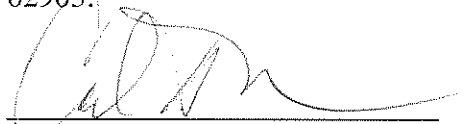
For the reasons listed below, Rhode Island Housing believes that any potential conflict of interest involving SWAP's participation under the NSP should be waived by HUD, and Rhode Island Housing has requested an exception to the conflict of interest provisions.

As is always the case when SWAP seeks assistance from Rhode Island Housing, Mr. Godfrey will not participate in the evaluation, review or decision making process regarding any applications for NSP funding. NSP applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed by a technical committee comprised of staff of the Rhode Island Office of Housing and Community Development and Rhode Island Housing. The committee will meet weekly to review applications and determine whether to provide NSP funding assistance for each application. Decisions are then implemented by Rhode Island Housing staff. Mr. Godfrey does not participate on this committee, does not have any review authority over the committee's decisions and will not have any opportunity to influence the committee's decision.

In addition, SWAP has significant and demonstrated expertise in dealing with exactly the sorts of properties that the NSP is designed to address, and marketing the completed properties to the intended to benefit from the NSP program. SWAP's ability to submit applications under the NSP program, and to receive assistance if their applications are

approved by an independent review committee, will serve to further the purposes of the Act and will foster the effective and efficient administration of the program.

For the foregoing reasons, Rhode Island Housing has requested that HUD approve an exception to the Conflict of Interest provisions as permitted under 24 CFR Section 570.611(d). Questions or comments concerning this request for exception to the CDBG/NSP Conflict of Interest regulations may be directed to Paula Coleman, Assistant Director of Development at Rhode Island Housing, 44 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903.



Carol Ventura
Director of Development

Date 2/18/05